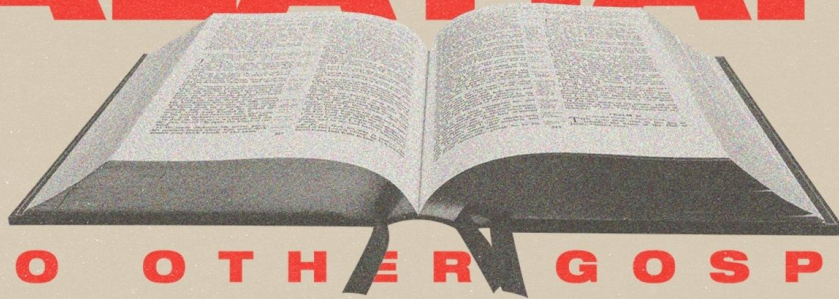


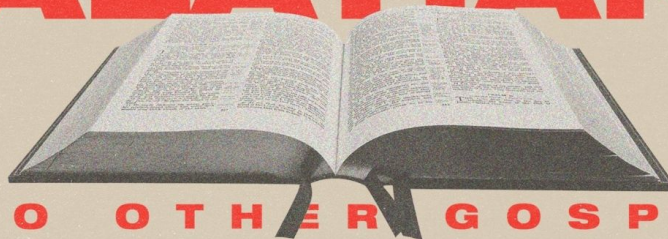
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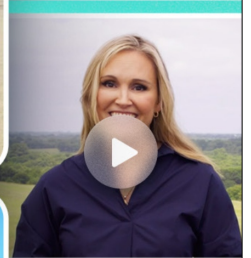
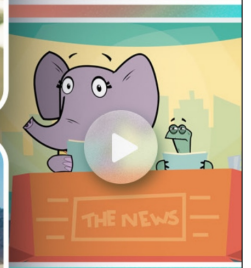


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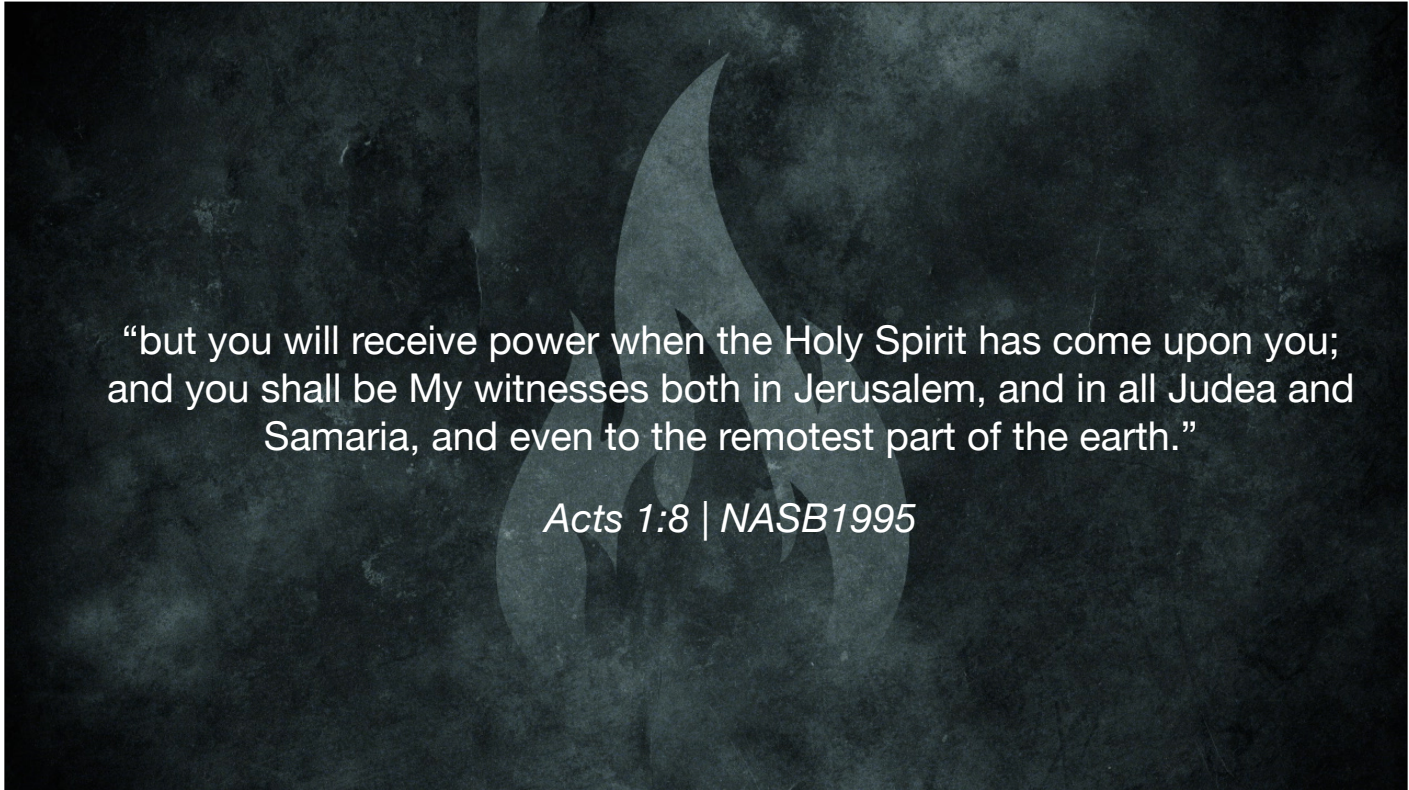
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The Spirit Who Spread the Gospel Protects the Gospel

Galatians 1:1-5





“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and
Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 | NASB1995

Brief Walk Through Acts

Acts 1–7

Jerusalem

Acts 2 Pentecost

Acts 6 Martyrdom of Stephen

Acts 8–12

Judea and Samaria

Acts 9 Paul's conversion

Acts 13–28

The whole world

Acts 13:4–14:28 Paul's First Missionary Journey

Acts 15:1–35 Jerusalem Council

Acts 15:38–18:22 Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Acts 18:23–21:17 Paul's Third Missionary Journey

PAUL'S FIRST MISSION ACTS 13:4 - 14:28 AD 46-48

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PAUL'S SECOND MISSION ACTS 15:39 - 18:22 AD 49-52

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- Because Acts isn't just a story about the spread of the gospel
- It's also the story of the defense of the gospel.
- As soon as the gospel spreads, it gets challenged.
- As soon as churches are planted, false teaching follows.
- As soon as people find freedom in Christ, someone tries to put them back in bondage.
- That's Galatians.

Dating Galatians

- Scholars are divided over whether Acts 11:30 or Acts 15 represents Paul's Jerusalem trip mentioned in Galatians 2:1-10
- If Galatians 2 is in reference to Acts 11, then Galatians was mostly likely written 48-50 AD after Paul's first missionary journey and before the Jerusalem Council
- If Galatians 2 is in reference to Acts 15, then Galatians is placed after the 2nd missionary journey and dated anywhere from 50-57AD.



- The meetings described in Galatians 2 and Acts 15 are similar. Circumcision is debated and the apostles decide that it is not required for the salvation of Gentiles.
- Some suggest that Galatians 2 is an informal meeting and Acts 15 is the formal agreement.
- This is important because the audience in Galatia may have been different depending on whether Paul writes after his first or second missionary journey
- Additionally, if Paul writes Galatians after his second missionary journey it places the writing of Galatians after 1-2 Thessalonians.



- While identifying the recipients of Galatians is important for Pauline chronology and history, it does not change the interpretation of the letter.
- However, I am going to suggest that it was written early and, as such, is Paul's first letter
- At the writing of Galatians, the only other letter to have been written would have been the book of James.



If the Holy Spirit could inspire Paul to write anything first, why Galatians?

- Galatians is not about church growth, leadership, marriage, spiritual gifts, or even end times.
- The first Pauline letter is a passionate defense of the gospel. It's as if the Holy Spirit is saying: **Before we talk about anything else, let's make sure we get the gospel right.**
- And this also connects to the book of James. James was concerned about a faith that never transforms. James says genuine faith works. Paul says works do not save. Paul and James are allies defending the gospel from opposite sides.

The Spirit Who Spread the Gospel Protects the Gospel

Galatians 1:1-5



How Do We Know Any of This?

- We often look for the Holy Spirit in the extraordinary. The Holy Spirit not only empowered the events, He inspired the record.
- The same Spirit who empowered Paul to preach empowered Paul to write.
- So when we open Galatians today, we're not merely studying history.
- One of the greatest works of the Holy Spirit is sitting open in your lap right now.

Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.

Galatians 1:1-5 | NASB95



Galatians 1:1-5 | Greeting

- Galatians begins with the typical Pauline structure: (1) identification of the author; (2) the recipients; and (3) the salutation
- Interestingly, Paul typically begins his letters with thanksgiving.
- Here, he is not thankful but astonished at the defection in the church.
- Usually a letter's greeting is brief, here it is 5 verses. Even Paul's greeting is about the Gospel.



Christ died for our sins to
rescue us for God's glory.

Summary of the Gospel in Galatians 1:1-5



Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), and all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, a to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.

Galatians 1:1-5 | NASB95



Why Galatians

- **Because the Gospel Matters**
 - As Pentecostals, we want the full gospel! That means participating with ALL the ways that the Holy Spirit works,
 - The Spirit Empowered(Acts)
 - The Spirit Inspired(Galatians)
 - The Spirit Illuminates(Today)
 - Galatians is not merely a book about justification. It is a book about living free in light of Jesus' great sacrifice for us.

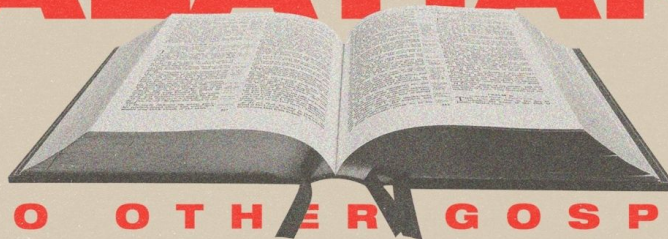


What If?

- **What if...** you truly believed God loved you because of Christ and not because of your performance?
- **What if...** you could recognize false gospels before they took root?
- **What if...** you learned to walk daily in the Spirit?
- **What if...** you experienced the freedom Jesus purchased for you?

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